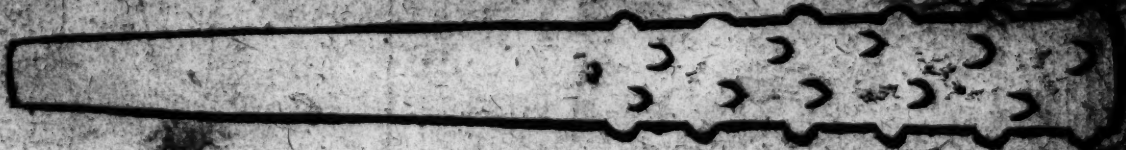




IF one smite another with an Instrument of Iron, that hee die, hee is a Murderer, and the Murderer, shall dye the Death. Or if he smite him with an Hand-weapon of Wood, whereby he may be slain, if he die, he is a Murderer, and the Murderer shall die the Death. *Numb. 35. verse 16.*



The form of the instrument of wood and iron that he used to hurt with



HEAVENS SPEEDIE

Hue and Cry sent after Lust
and Murther.

Manifested upon the suddaine apprehending
of *Thomas Shearwood*, and *Elizabeth Evans*,
whose manner of *Lives*, *Death*, and
free *Confessions*, are heere
expressed.

Who were Executed the one upon the 14. and the
other on the 17. of this Moneth of *April 1635*.
neere to the place where the facts
were committed, and now
doe hang in chaines.

Written by *H. G.* their daily Visiter, at the
time of their Imprisonment, and severall
dayes of Execution.

Published by Authority.

LONDON: /

Printed by *N. and I. Okes*, dwelling in *Well-yard* in lit-
tle *St. Bartholmews*, neare unto the *Lame*
Hospitall gate, 1635.

THE AVENS
SPEDIE

Line and City sent after last
and returned

How were the results of the study?

Written by H. G. Daily Officer at the
United States Court and Federal
Prison at Chicago.

Erkrankung des Kindes.

Printed by W. and A. Oles, dwelling in Well-spring in the
the 2nd. Barrenness, near the 1st.
1855.



THE PREFACE.



Have Resumed my Pen,
which I resolved in this
Nature for ever to be silent.
But the common good, and
preservation of my Coun-
tries welfare, incites mee
unto this officious service. As one that stan-
deth Centinell in the Night, vnto whom Fide-
lity and Trust is reposed, and the safety of
the whole Army dependeth: (Even so am I,)
to discover the private and suddain approach-
ing of the Enemies. Like a Watch-man to ob-
serve all commers in and out, into the Gates of
the Citty, to unvaile pernicious Passengers,
which

The Preface.

which Dayes and Nights uncessantly passe through the Streets, and in the secret corners of the same privily lurke, and watch an opportunity to cozen, rob, and murther. I presume not to instruct the prudent and wise, that were absurd and ridiculous: But the Levell of my intention is, to make the vulgar Ignorants so wise, as to walke warily and circumspectly; which plaine path they may knowingly see, and discern by this sequent discovery of such notorious offenders that live upon the spoyle of such Passengers, and Travellers resorting up unto London upon their necessary affaires. A new kinde of invented wickednesse, and fearefull mischief, but I hope by Gods mercy, and the late exemplary Iustice, strangled in the Birth, is this Narration of Country Tom, and Bessie of Camberly, so termed by those of their alike base disposition. A Woman, Oh shame unto her modest tender Sexe! to become a setter, or set on such a brazen face, that upon a man unknowne unto her, shee seazeth in the open Streets, and with her decettfull smiles,

and

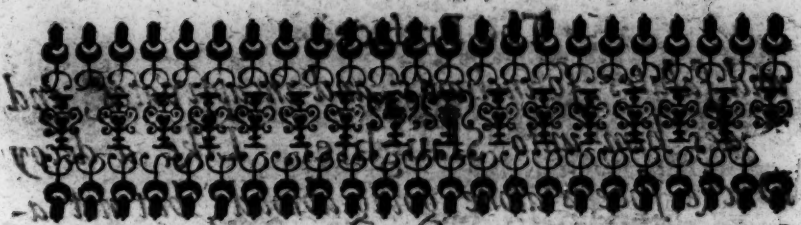
The Preface.

And salutes so inchaunts, and incaptivates, and
 des him unto Slaughter. Like a decoy
 Ducke, shee is alone going abroad, but not a-
 lone returning, associated with multitudes
 homeward. The bargain shee strikes up, and
 goeth before, to a secret appointed place, upon
 whom, unawares, to the seduced person, atten-
 deth a merciless, strong Theefe, and most bar-
 barous cruell Murtherer, that at once strikes
 and slayes: of whose cunning practises, se-
 cret snares, and subtil wiles I labour to give
 all people a light, and true insight; God Al-
 mighty give it a blessing unto his good plea-
 sure and thy benefit, unto whom I am thy true
 professed friend during the time of my morta-
 lity.

H. G.

Certaine

A Tine



Certaine pregnant inducements, out of
the Holy Scriptures, against murder and
Man-slaughter.

THe first is, the direct words of Gods Comman-
dement, Thou shalt not kill. Exod. 20.

WHo so sheddeth mans blood, by man shall
his blood be shed. For in the image of God
hath he made man. Genes. 1.

HE also that killeth any Man, hee shall surely
be put to Death. Leviticus 24. 17.

YE E. are of your Father the Diuill, and the
lusts of your father you will doe: Hee hath
beene a Murderer from the beginning, &c. Ioh. 8.

If any kill with the sword, hee must be killed by
the sword: Here is the patience and the Faith
of the Saints.

And therefore,

LEt all bitternesse, and anger, wrath, and e-
uill speaking be put away from you, with all
maliciousnesse.

A True



TRUE COPPY
OF THE EXAMINATION
 and Confession of *Thomas Sherwood*,
 commonly called *Countrey-Tom*, and *Eliza-*
beth Evans, best knowne by the name
 of *Canbery Besse*: concerning bloody and
 inhumane Murders committed on the
backe-side of Clarken-well neare
London, upon three Gentlemen, at
 three severall times: the man-
 ner whereof will appeare
 in the sequell.

Also their Execution and verball Confes-
sion at their Death.

BEFORE I enter into the listes of
 the ensuing Relation, there are
 of these two most miserable Ca-
 tifes, remarkeable Observations
 in their severall lives: (lives did I
 say?) to say so I doe grossly mistake; for al-
 though they were living, yet then dead they
 were in most foule and abominable sinnes,
 and clamorous crimes, that sent hot pursuite
 after them at all times, and in all places with-
 out

out intermission, to sweepe them from off
the face of the earth.

The Observations.

Note.

- 1. First, what a viperous brood of Sinnes were ingendred, conceived, and brought forth by these Monsters Male and Female: what a Chaine of Sinnes is heere linked, and twisted one to each other.
- 2. Secondly, the Stygmaticall marke that Heaven did set upon them both in their two severall names.

The Originall of all vices.

- 1. First, Idlenesse the indulgent Mother, cannot, she is so indigent of herselfe, be able to give bread, or cloathing to her pampered and poysoned little ones in youth with Sloth, but like a curst Step-mother sends them out of doores, to seeke bread in desolate places.
- 2. Secondly, Sloth or Idlenesse scornes to worke, especially with the hands, for that is not Gentle like: yet I would they see they must for necessities sake, and a master they have at hand, (the Devill) that safely as they suppose, fettereth them on worke.
- 3. Thirdly, from Sloth springeth forbidden Theft.
- 4. Fourthly, from Theft springeth beastly Lust.
- 5. Fifthly, from filthy Lust they lanch out into the deep, to Blood-shed and Murder.
- 6. Sixthly, from Murder springeth the

(3)

6. Finally, thus by degrees they finish their *Remember* destruction, and the full Cup of Gods heavy *this.* wrath and displeasure, forcibly they drinke up.

2. *Observation.*

On both their Names, behold what a Brand is set on them by *Heaven*: high scorne and derision; perishing before they perished, forgotten before they were dead: For by the Names of *Countrey-Tom*, and *Canberry-Besse*, they were knowne unto the World: *Note.* The honest Stocke, and Parents from which they descended, forgetting, and denying. *Scripture* saith, *The memoriall of the wicked shal perish: Let him be wiped out of the Booke of Remembrance, and that, because his minde was not to doe good.* Thus with them.

No feare
No thought
No care
No love
} of God.

And therefore for them,

No memory,

No losse,

No place of Buriall,

No mourning, to say, *Alas my Brother,*
or *alas my Sister.*

*The narration of the manner of the
course of their lives.*

AS they confessed, their Names were *Thomas Sherwood*, and *Elizabeth Evans*, the one borne in *Stafford-shire*, there brought up by his Parents, a laborious Husbandman: The other borne in *Shropshire*, of a very good parentage descended, who carefully for her good education, and future preferment, sent her up unto *London*, to some friends, who settled her in a good service, as shee confessed at her Death: But unfortunately it happened, that shee grew acquainted with a young man in *London*, who tempted her unto folly, and by that ungodly act her suddain ruine ensued. By reason of such her folly, her Friends failed, and frowned on her: Oh unnaturall blemish! thus to forsake, cast off, and forget their owne deare flesh; all meanes of livelyhood failing, her left thus destitute, and out of all, credit, friends, money, apparrell, and service: A base loose course of life shee resolves on, and therein as shee freely confessed, continued the space of 4. yeares, untill at last shee unhappily happened to get into familiarity and acquaintance with this Country-Tom, otherwise *Thomas Sherwood*, with whom she constantly accompanied day
and

and night for the terme of a yeare, or thereabouts. And having obtained such a mate fit for his owne humour and inclination, secretly these two combin'd, resolv'd, and put in practice their new invented mysterie of Iniquity, as followeth.

Whensoever they went forth out of their Lodgings, they severed not themselves, but kept within sight one of another alwayes, both hunting for one prey; and frequenting and watching such places, and houses, for persons fitted for their occasion, and to make use of.

The places they resorted unto, {

- 1 To Play-houses.
- 2 To Tavernes.
- 3 To Innes.
- 4 To Ale houses.
- 5 To the open Streetes.
- 6 To the Fields.

If by chance they did meete with one that had beene that day too busie with the Por, such an one was fitt for their Net: then the brazen-face Strumpet presently claimes acquaintance, that she knew him of long time, whose face she never saw before; and so farther into familiar discourse, and complements they proceed, that further courtesies are desired, and promised in some secret place, to passe betweene them. This new guest, and

acquaintance thus taken up in the way by her,
away she hastens with her prize, and carries
him unto the Chambers of death: As wit-
nesse the Murdering by such her slights, these
Gentlemen of great Note, and good quality,
Eminent in place and substance, Master *Rom-
land Holt* a Merchant, and Citizen of London,
whom they murdered in *Claxhanwell* fields,
in January last past: Likewise Master *Thomas
Claxton* Gentleman, a Lieutenant, in *Graves
Inne* fields, the first of this instant April, 1635.
Also to another Gentleman, whom they rob-
bed of his Cloake and Hat, by name Master
Michael Lowe, at the pitch of the Hill going
downe to *Hockley Hole* in *Clarkenwell* Parish,
at which place they gave him his Deaths
wound, and had not ayde upon his out-cry
hastily come upon them; they had without
doubt flaine him; but within one quarter of a
yeare afterwards Master *Michael Lowe* dyed
of the same wound in his Head then by *Coun-
treys Tam*, so forcibly strooke, that Master *Lowe*
did then very narrowly escape bleeding to
death.

The free Confession of Thomas Sherwood,
after the time of his apprehending.

TWO Moneths, and two Weekes were
completely expired, before it could bee
knowne

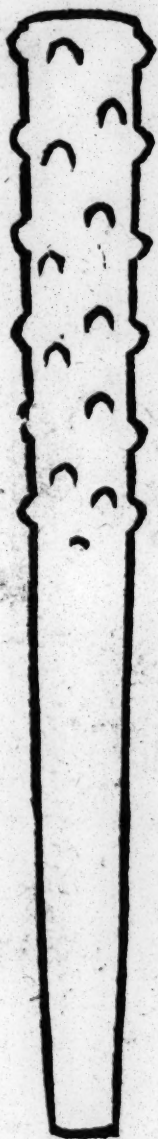
(7)

knowne what barbarous hand had acted that
facinorous Fact on the body of Master Row-
land Holt found dead, and with blowes very
much bruised.

This Hound of Hell, that did this cruell mur-
ther, fliesth thus, greedily seeketh for more
Mans flesh; and thirsteth afresh after more
blood. He thought, that in that little space
God, and the People had forgotten Mr. Hols
blood, as himselfe had; who securely againe
starts out, and he with his constant mischie-
vous Companion, to their damnable former
resolutions in all Impieties, putteth on the
habit, that now to kill a man, (tush) it is not
worth the talking of, or taking of notice,
as so it may be conjectured of them; who in
so short a space, to the first Murder added the
second, the places both of them being with-
in the sight of each other, which might de-
terre them from such their unnaturall and un-
godly intencion and determination, from the
shedding of more innocent blood.

Upon Wednesday at Night, in Easter weeke
last past, 1633, about the houre of Nine, these
two inhumane Creatures did meete about
the Kings gate which is by Blomesborry, a
proper costly apparrelled Gentleman, Ma-
ster Thomas Claxton, a Souldier, and Lieute-
nant, who that day and time that this Mon-
ster of her Sexe interchanged discourse, and
with

The form of
his weapon,
which lay se-
cretly in his
breeches.



with familiar complements (oh lamentable to
speake) had drunke to much, as these two
yild wretches confessed.

Words past betwixt Master. *Claxton* and
that Harlot *Besse of Cumberly*, together these
two gee, but who followed them both, the
poore Gentleman was altogether ignorant,
and little suspected: After them both. *Coun-
treys Tom* hasteneth, with a short Trunchin, or
Bastinado under his cloake, and findes com-
panying together his Harlot with Master
Claxton, whom she had treacherously tray-
ned into *Graves Inne* fields, a stones cast wide
from the High-way; where what they did,
I so charitably am opinionated of the decea-
sed Gentleman, that to their slanderous ca-
lumnations, and traducings concerning him,
I give not the least credence. For those to
beleeve, whose hands were so foully stained
with blood, their breath unworthy to blast
the good name, or brand the good that the
world conceived of the reputation of such a
Gentleman as Mr. *Claxton* was. Inhumanely
with a short Trunchin of Iron which *Sher-
wood* carried under his cloake by his bloody
polluted hands, with this weapon he instant-
ly deprived master *Claxton* of life, and after
that done, they both fell to rifling the poc-
kets, and uncivilly strip, (all humanity laying
aside) the body bare and naked, and in that
manner

another left it, and so fled away.

When he had recollected his distracted thoughts and throbbing hard heart, within two houres after, (as he sayd) hee return'd unto the place, to behold that sad spectacle of master *Claxton* slaughtered body, who (as he said) was not flaine out-right, for he heard him sleepe and moore, and that he had turned himselfe on his belly after he left him; and had not the winde taken his wounds, he might very well have beene recovered unto health. But perceiving life was extinct in him, flight is become the chiefest comfort, and refuge. Shee flyeth to her old acquainted lodging, at *St. Giles* in the fields, and he taketh his course another way.

The Morning ensuing, betimes hee dispatcheth a speedy messenger unto his Copartner in mischief, appointing his matchlesse Mate to meete with him forthwith in *Moore-fields*, which according unto his appointment hee did at the place, and time by him prefixed. And observe how thither hee commeth with his understanding so infatuated by the irfull Judge of *Heaven*, that with the apparrell he commeth on his backe that morning, of the Gentlemans whom he slew the Night before, and waite was layd for such fashioned apparrell, which he wore, and profered to sell in *Houndsditch* so inconsiderately, suddainly was apprehended. Preparation he was making to travell downe into the Countrey: For he bought a new Petticoate for her that dearely earned it; and he profered unto Sale the Apparrell which hee never bought, nor paid for; to put himselfe into money likewise, to beare both their charges for their intended journey.

But as *Equity* and *Injustice* commanded, they both
C together

together were apprehended, and by the Authority of Magistracy presently sent unto *Newgate*, unto whom thither an industrious, judicious, and discreet Gentleman Master *Long*, a Commissioner of the Peace, in the County of *Middlesex*, frequently resorted, and tooke there their severall Examinations so carefully, punctually, and truly, that both the Malefactors out of their owne mouthes, against themselves confessed the same, totally iust: I touch here but briefly upon them, for I intended not at all to mention much of their confessions, for feare my brevity should wrong, or intrench upon his prudent discussion and politicke insinuations into them, by which forcibly he discovered all their Villanies, and made the truth apparant.

There was a great Rumour spread, that this *Sherwood* had slaine divers persons else, besides Mr. *Claxton* and Mr. *Holt*, as the woman at *Lambeth* that was slaine in her house the last Winter, a Child also, for which two were executed, all these are but flying Tales. To give therefore the *World* satisfaction, I have here set downe his free and voluntary confession of such persons he slew, which he confirmed at his Death: besides many great Robberies he was guilty of, whereof master *Long* hath his free confession.

The day of his conviction, I heard it in the *Sessions* yard reported, that *Sherwood* had slaine a Gentleman master *Michael Low*, whose Father was sometimes *Lord Mayor of London*, and his selfe of late collated into the place of Secondary in the Counter of *Woodstreet*.

I was entreated by master *Lowes* friends to be instant with *Sherwood*, to discover if he could, the person

son that robbed and wounded him. His Answer concerning that unto me, was this, that he knew the parties that did it, and if he would at Night repaire unto him, he would really make them knowne unto me.

Hereupon I addrest my selfe unto master Long, I acquainted him what I had done, and that as I suspected by my discourse with *Sherwood*, that hee could not be guiltlesse of the Robbing of master *Law*.

That very Evening although late, master Long went to *Sherwood* to *Newgate*, where, there as at his death, he said, hee with *Elizabeth Evans* Robbed master *Lowe* of his Hat and Cloake by the *Lady Harrons* wall about *Michaelmas* Terme last: and further said, hee thought that the wounds hee then gave him in his Head with this Instrument, or the like, was the cause of his death: which generally is so vored, because he died within a quarter of a yeare with an Impostumation in his Head, the wound being cured, but inwardly rank'd and festred. For money, he said, hee tooke none at all from him; for that day a little before he had delivered up all his money unto his Servant.

Freely he confessed the murthering of Master *Roland Holt* in *Clarkenwell* fields: The murthering of Master *Thomas Claxton* in *Graves Inne* fields, and robbing and wounding of Master *Michael Lowe* by the *Lady Harrons* wall: Besides, guilty of many Notorious Felonies and Robberies, committed in *Middlesex*, to a great number. Further, discovering many base persons of his condition, and the dispersed places of secret harbouring such unprofitable obnoxious members unto a State and Common-wealth.

for the stopp'd and wounded him. His Answer con-
 sidering the place of his Execution, and what
 he there said, the Relations

There was no profite at all in his life time to his
 Countrie, but in his Discoverie and Death. I
 hope some use, and good service unto the Countrie
 may redound. His associates, I hope, shall be bani-
 shed, which he hath branded, and with them, their
 Receivers and Harbourers. His Death and hanging
 up now in chaines, an example to deterre others not
 so to offend, which I pray God give such a blessing
 to all the people. Amen.

Being brought unto the place of his Death, he there
 minded nothing else, but how to dye, desiring of the
 people that they would not presse him, unto further con-
 fessions, to debarre his Soule of better meditations, but
 to rest satisfied with his confessions, which he had made
 unto Master Long and my selfe, and nothing else but
 truth contained in them, confirmed by a serious asseve-
 ration proceeding then out of his mouth. This done hee
 turned himselfe towards the people, speaking unto
 them, and praying for them very hartily, with ad-
 monishing all that did see him that day, to beware of
 Whores, for they were the worst Company in the
 World, wishing all to beware by his fall, and not to
 bee seduced, or blind-fold led, as hee was by such be-
 witching Creatures, to irrevocable ruine. In the
 Posture of his Body, hee expressed true Humility,
 for all the time of Prayer, he prayed kneeling. In his
 Prayers unto God, he expressed an unexpected ferven-
 cy by these words, and short ejaculations unto Hea-
 vens mercy seat, sensibly feeling the heavy Burden of
 his

his sinnes, most hartely implored, in the hands of Almighty God, his mercy and forgiveness for them, I will doe him this right, to expresse the Ardency of his Soule, when the word Mercy was uttered: this Elation from his own mouth proceeded, the hearing of the word Mercy, was sweet and savory unto his sorrowfull Soule, for in the great anguish of Soule he prayed, and onely relied saying thus: O Lord my sinnes are so haynous, great and many, if thy Mercy helpe me not, what will become hereafter of my poore Soule.

What I flye unto, and onely trust; thy mercy did save the whole World of sinners, and Lord I hope my great sins cannot exceed thy great mercies. After these speeches hee returned with hearty requests unto God to forgive him his haynous sinnes. Hee beseeched all the People that were there present, all to forgive him, whom he had offended, and to joyn with him in hartey prayer unto the Almighty, in his behalfe, to forgive him, and to extend his Soule to mercy.

As for those holy exercises accomplished, the first part of the 1. Psalme was sung, and after that by his request was sung the Lamentation of a sinner. That ended, asked him if hee was willing to dye, to which hee answered, yea, most we come death was unfeared, for all the while he lived, his life was as a house of mourning, and most uncomfortable. But his death he joyfully embraced, and mortall life cheerfully did surrender up, and sent his soule out of his Body flying, calling on the name of the Lord Iesus to receive him. And all the people speaking to God for him, likewise with their loud voyces, and strong acclamations, Lord Iesu take mercy on him, sweete Iesu forgive his sinnes, and save his Soule.

the Narrative of Thomas Sherwood, who was
hanged in chains at Lancaster Church, bod virginia

~~the Narrative of Thomas Sherwood, who was
hanged in chains at Lancaster Church, bod virginia~~

Now to the particular Narration of Elizabeth

Evans the impious Fellow-mate of

Thomas Sherwood

Concerning her, I have very little matter offered to
dilate; I found this Sherwood and her so different
in their severall confessions unto me, that I wonderfully
admired, that two alwaies inseparable in such prosecu-
tions of euill, should be so contradictory one unto each
other. But I easily reconciled the doubt, in the particu-
lar observation in their two severall manners of dying.

A Woman she was that died, for whose sake and tu-
merous Sexe sake, something must bee allowed tollera-
ble: Yet something I found in her worthy of note, as
the time of her confession, a perfect hate, and execra-
tion against all Theeves, which caused her detestation,
on. And furthermore in signe of such her detestation,
of such unholy courses, proceeded from her mouth a most
serious request unto all then present assembled, advising
all poore simple women to marry an honest man, though
but a Ragge-gatherer, rather then a lewd man or a
Theefe, rendring the reason of such her earnest admo-
nition, because an honest man may make an euill woman
turne from her euill maies, but it was hard for an euill
man, to make a wicked woman good, with diuers other
admonitions to the wonder of the standers by I can shew
what a life shee had lived in.

Concerning what shee said at the place
of Execution.

Nothing shee here expressed very remarkable, concerning her old Companion in Mischiefe, *Thomas Shearwood*; who on Candlemas day last, pressed amongst the Jurers, at the *Christopher* Taverne in Turnmill Street alias Turnebull Street to view the dead Corps of Master *Rowland Holt*, by him murdered, his Nose immediately gushed out with such issues of blood, that hee feared thereby to bee discovered, and returning unto her land, I have suffered such a thing this day about Master *Holt*, wee must of necessity, leave of this course of life.

I found her with the feares of Death very much perplexed and amazed, distractively casting her eyes here, and there, at last shee esioies the High Elmes neere which place Master *Claxton* was slaine, and fetcht a deepe sigh and said, would to God I had never seen that place. I found both *Shearwoods*, and her Confession to agree both in the Murthering of Master *Holt*, Master *Claxton*, and Master *Low*, onely they differed, in the stripping of Master *Claxton*; for *Shearwood* in the receiving of the blessed Body and Blood of Jesus Christ with her, then affirmed to her face, that she helped him, for to take Master *Claxton*'s cloathes off, she there confidently, denyed the same, and confirmed at her Death, whereunto as also unto other base aspersions on the dead, I give no credence, thus of her who died very penitent and after her execution was converted, to Barber Surgions Hall, for an Anatomy; of whom I hope, God did take mercy.

Hen. Goodcole.

FINIS.

A generall

A generall Admonition.

DEAR Country men, what I have here done, is intended
for a generall good, & can be of use to all

- 1. Parents.
- 2. Children.
- 3. Masters.
- 4. Servants.

1 Parents, care not off your Children, neither leave them to
shift in the wilde world in their Youth, knowing how subiect
Youth is unto temptation, and to be seduced in the time of
necessitie, and extreame want.

2 Children, obey your earthly Parents, unto such as obey
God hath promised his two-fold blessing: first, A Life tempo-
rall: Secondly, Life eternall.

3 Masters, be good to your earthly Servants,
knowing yee have all one Master, which is *Christ* in Heaven,
that shall one day judge you for the good and evill yee have
done.

4 Servants, obey your earthly Masters, and the Masters autho-
rity is knowne by obedience to their Commandments: Who-
soever resisteth, receiveth the greater condemnation.

One thing more I will commend unto you, the mo-
desty of a milke-woman, in finding him naked, cover-
eth him with her appron.

CONCLUSION.

Let God be true, though it should make every man a liar.
Let him do daily prayer.
He will thee send an happy end.
And live with him for ever.

There is nothing contrary to this hope, conceiv-
ing this manner of way, but I know to bee true.
and therefore I have thus printed.

April 13. 1630. at London, by J. C. of whom I hope
Hen. Goodcole.

